abnormal change in river water quality was observed by these agencies.

(b) As a precautionary measure, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi was asked to take steps to prevent the discharge of adulterated mustard oil into sewer lines/Yamuna river. As an alternative they were advised to promote the use of adulterated oil for such purposes as lighting, soap manufacturing etc.

Production and Import of Camphor

*297. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the installed capacity, actual production and import of Camphor during the last five years, year-wise and Statewise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the production of Camphor is declining while imports are increasing steeply; if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that heavy imports under OGL and higher tax burden of Central Government excise duty of 18% and State sales tax ranging between 7% to 15% have adversely affected Camphor industry; and

(d) if so, the details of action plan to restore, and promote domestic Camphor industry against manipulations and unfair competition from China?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Camphor is manufactured in the organised sector by four Units in the country. The details of installed capacity and production achieved by these Units during the last five years, year-wise and state-wise, are given below:

State	Installed Capacity .	Production (MTs)				
		1993-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98
Uttar Pradesh Jammu	4500	2541	4061	3102	3088	3166
& Kashmir	600		839	872	500	450
Maharashtra Andhra	2500				922	960
Pradesh	1000					1191
TOTAL:	8600	2541	4900	3974	4510	5767

Import data of Camphor as per DGCIS publications for the last five years is as under:—

1992-93	147.56
1993-94	949.92
1994-95	244.02
1995-96	839.43
1996-97	211.4*

(b) No, Sir. The production of indigenous Camphor shows an increasing trend since 1995-96. Import of Camphor has been fluctuating.

(c) & (d) Excise duty levied on Cam phor is the same as that levied for al! similar chemicals. The sales tax levied differs from State to State. If there is evidence of unfair competition from China, the industry can initiate antidumping duty proceedings.

Losses due to ban on timber trade in North-East

*298. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ban on all the timber based activities in the seven North-Eastern States has caused a loss of about Rs. 1,480 crores to the national exche-